

29 September 1971

STAT   
Headquarters 5 MACV  
Box 101  
APO San Francisco 96222

Dear Bill:

STAT This note will supplement  recent letter. I had been planning to take a trip to the parish myself sometime this fall and had thought I would have an opportunity then to discuss with you directly some of the points covered below. The trip has not materialized, hence this letter.

STAT As you may have gathered via osmosis or the grapevine and as I asked Dick Lehman to mention to you privately during his Saigon stop, plans are fairly well advanced at this end for you to be assigned to my office for a tour upon your return. Such an arrangement is entirely agreeable to  and John Huizenga and would accordingly pose no administrative difficulties of any form. Despite appearances, however, there has certainly been no intention on my part of locking anything in concrete until one essential precinct had been heard from -- namely yourself.

STAT I think you are fairly familiar with our setup and responsibilities, so I shall not elaborate in this medium on our tasks, functions and organizational structure. In essence, you would be replacing  whose retirement we have been successful in extending until the end of this calendar year. I would want you to serve in his stead as our principal follower and monitor of political trends and developments in South Vietnam as well as in Cambodia and Laos. You would be working largely on your own and would, of course, be free to follow up any particular areas of related inquiry that strike you as significant or important. I would also want to rely on you to give us a hand in drafting assorted memoranda and appreciations of various types that we get called for from time to time, often on extremely short notice. Cheerfully admitting

my lack of objectivity, it nonetheless seems to me that you could find this position a source of challenge, intellectual stimulation and reward, at least in the sense that your prose would be read and considered not only within the building but also by senior elements within the whole governmental structure. Ours is a relatively small and informal office which we do not break down into subcomponents or sections, hence there would be no particular title per se nor any appreciable level of direct supervisory responsibilities. There would, however, be continuing access to all the information available to this government and a chance, not only to render a considerable service, but also to put into words that someone of significance will certainly read any ideas, feelings or perceptions that you consider of importance.

STAT On the administrative side, you would technically belong to your parent office (as, indeed, technically do I) but would be detailed to us. Administrative mechanics such as Fitness Reports, etc., would be prepared here and forwarded to [ ] or John for review. I have a rigid policy of not making commitments unless I am certain they can be honored, hence I would prefer to offer no promises on the promotion side. I can say, however, that to my knowledge no one has ever suffered in this regard as a result of an assignment here and several in various organizational components have done rather better than probably would have been the case had they remained within the physical confines of their parent offices. STAT John and [ ] both share my view that such an assignment would be a logical forward step in your own pattern of career progression and it would certainly do nothing to diminish the regard in which you are held by your parent office. As for dates, I understand you plan to leave Vietnam in mid to late October, want (naturally) to take a leisurely trip home followed by some leave and would prefer not to resume the life of a Washington bureaucrat until shortly after the first of next year. Since we have Elmer through December, such a schedule would be fine with me. There might be a slight underlap of a week or so, but this would be easily accommodated.

I hope the above answers any questions you may now have. I also hope these remarks do not sound ungracious or as if others were blithely arranging your future without consulting your own preferences. As you should know, I have always had a very high regard for your analytical and professional abilities and your facility with the English language. The invitation to join us is both cordial and sincere. I think you would enjoy working in this office and know that we would all be delighted to have you as a colleague.

If you should have any comments or further questions, please feel free to raise them frankly. I hope you have a splendid trip home and a thoroughly enjoyable leave.

Sincerely,

George A. Carver, Jr.

STAT